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1824

Accounted by Amherst College

Amherst college

AMHERST COLLEGE.

A PETITION was presented to the Legislature of Massachusetts, at their Session in June 1823, by REV. DR. MOORE, HON. JOHN HOOKER, and others, in behalf of the Trustees of Amherst Academy,—representing that the said Trustees had been entrusted with the funds of the Collegiate Institution at Amherst,—stating the character and progress of the Institution, and requesting that the said Trustees might be invested with such corporate powers in relation to the Institution as are usually given to the Trustees of Colleges.

At the same Session of the Legislature a Memorial was presented from *Subscribers of the Permanent Fund*, which is the basis of the Institution, representing that they had associated together for the purpose of founding an Institution on principles of charity and benevolence for the instruction of youth in all the branches of literature and science usually taught in Colleges,—stating that they had committed the management of their Fund to the Trustees of Amherst Academy, under whose direction the Institution had prospered beyond their most sanguine expectations,—and praying

Boston, March 1824

that the request of said Trustees to be invested with College powers in relation to the Institution might be granted.

The said Petition and Memorial were referred to a Joint Committee, consisting of *Hon. Sherman Leland, Hon. Benjamin Adams, Hon. Nathan Noyes, Hon. Jonathan Russell, Hon. Jairus Ware, Ebenezer Shillaber, Esq. and Pliny Cutler, Esq.* Six of whom agreed in a Report in favor of the Petitioners having leave to bring in a Bill.

Statement of Hon. Sherman Leland, Chairman of the Committee, to the Senate, June 9, 1823.

The allegations of the Petitioners for Amherst College have been substantially supported, in the view of the Committee, who, I am happy to say, were nearly unanimous upon the subject. The Trustees of Amherst Academy have indeed received, in trust, a Subscription of a permanent Fund of \$50,000; which, according to the terms of subscription, is the "*basis of a Literary Institution in Amherst for the instruction of youth in all the branches of literature and science usually taught in Colleges.*" Upwards of \$44,000 of this subscription has already been secured by actual payment, or by notes, or bonds, to the satisfaction of the Overseers; and most of the remainder, which still rests on the original Subscription, will probably be faithfully paid. According to the terms of subscription, *five sixths* of the *interest* of this permanent Fund is to be used, and has been hitherto used, in procuring the Classical instruction of hopefully pious and indigent

young men, of different denominations, intended for the gospel ministry; and the other sixth of the interest is to be added to the principal. The five sixth of the interest, being thus appropriated, will, in fact, furnish, in part, the support of the College Instructors. A new Subscription has been commenced, payable on condition that \$30,000 shall be subscribed by the 28th of the present month; which, judging from the advanced state of the Subscription, will unquestionably be done; so that the monied property at the disposal of the Trustees, if chartered, may be fairly estimated at nearly \$30,000. By the aid of other generous contributions, the Trustees have been enabled to erect two College Buildings of brick, each of them 100 ft. long, 40 wide, and four stories high, and a commodious house for the President of the Institution, and to procure a Library of more than one thousand volumes, and also a Philosophical and a Chemical apparatus for the use of the Institution; all of which together may be valued at \$30,000. For which, however, and for other purposes, there is still due about \$15,000; so that after the debts are paid; the monied funds of the Institution may be estimated at about \$65,000, and the Buildings and other property at \$30,000; making the whole amount of property belonging to the Institution \$95,000.—The income of these *monied funds* will pay the College bills of a large number of pious and indigent young men: which income, together with the College bills of others, who are not charity students, will thus be sufficient to support a competent number of able Instructors.

A President, three Professors, and two Tutors have been appointed; all of whom have accepted their ap-

pointments, and five of whom have entered on the duties of their office. The students, already 98 in number, are pursuing precisely the same elevated course of study, which is pursued at Yale College—the study of the sciences,—*not Theology.*—*The board of students, in respectable families, is from one dollar to one dollar twenty-five cents a week; College bills, thirty dollars a year; and other necessary expenses about twenty dollars; so that the whole expense of a Collegiate education need not exceed one hundred dollars a year.*

The friends of this Institution and of the Commonwealth, now ask that it may be incorporated; not merely as a favor from government, but as a *Right*, which all free citizens, enjoying equal rights and privileges, might, under similar circumstances, reasonably expect would be granted. These Subscribers and Donors surely had a perfect *right to* do as they have done;—they had a right to found this College;—they had a right to institute this elevated course of instruction; and if so, the Authorities of the State are unquestionably bound to give them a Charter;—*an instrument acknowledging their Rights;*—which is all they ask for.

But it is intimated that if this College is chartered, its prosperity may injure other Colleges; but this argument is nothing, unless it can be shown that the *interests of the Commonwealth will be injured.* No person will pretend to believe, that a *less number will be educated in the State*, if this College is incorporated. And supposing that it should draw away some students, who would otherwise go to Cambridge; as very probably it may, if students can be educated in the pleasant town of Amherst, at about one third the ex

pense of an education at Cambridge; there will even in this be a saving of so much to the Commonwealth. And there is no doubt, but that there will always be a sufficient number of gentlemen of opulence and splendor, who will choose to send their sons to Harvard College; so that it will continue to have as great a proportion of the students of the State, as can be desirable. It is peculiarly desirable, that flourishing Institutions of this kind should be so situated, that those in the middling walks of life, as well as others, may enjoy the advantages of them, and that intelligence and influence may be equally distributed throughout the Commonwealth. In regard to Williams College, its numbers are not yet diminished, as it appears, by the Institution at Amherst, and perhaps they never will be. The two Institutions now contain more than *double* the number that were in the habit of going to Williamstown, before the Institution at Amherst was established. At any rate, Williams College has very considerable funds, as it is stated, which will support it, even though its number of students should be diminished; so that it will not "*go down*," as it is said, but will probably continue to be useful.

The Institution at Amherst has had many unnecessary difficulties to encounter; it has had no charter under which to manage its funds—and no power of conferring degrees; still, on account of its peculiarly favourable situation, it has risen rapidly, and is at present flourishing; and will unquestionably prosper, and be *eminently useful, without any pecuniary aid from the government*. These statements are made, as an expression of the result of the investigation, and views of the Committee.

Certificate of the Treasurer.

This certifies, that, (in addition to the sum of Fifty thousand Dollars, previously subscribed for a Permanent Fund, and in addition to many generous donations in materials, work, and money, towards the erection of College Buildings and a President's house,) the proposed Subscription of Thirty thousand Dollars, for the benefit of Amherst Collegiate Institution, which was commenced the 28th of June 1822, was completed in one year from that date. JOHN LELAND, Jun.

Treasurer of Amherst Collegiate Institution.

Amherst, Dec. 31, 1823.

Legacies.

Since the last session of the Legislature the venerable Dr. MOORE has left to the Institution a residuary Legacy, which is valued at about \$5,000.

MR. ADAM JOHNSON has also bequeathed to the Institution about \$5,000; the validity of which bequest is to be tried before the Supreme Court and an impartial Jury.

Relative Situation of Amherst College.

	<i>Miles.</i>
Distance to Harvard University, East	- 90
“ to Brown University, R. I. S. East	90
“ to Yale Coll. Cōn. South	- - 90
“ to Union Coll. N. Y. West	- - 95
“ to Williams Coll. N. West	- - 55
“ to Dartmouth Coll. N. H. North	100
“ to the Western line of the State	- 52
“ to the North line of the State	- 30
“ to the South line of the State	- 30

The College is near the Centre of the old County of Hampshire, which, (according to the Catalogues of 1823,) furnishes 129 College Students; only 8 of whom are at Harvard, and 19 at Williams.

Conveniences of Stages and Mails.

A Mail-Stage, running between Hartford and Hanover, N. H. passes by the College every day of the week, except Sunday. A Mail-Stage, running between Boston and Albany, passes by the College 4 times a week; (which regulation commenced the 1st. of Jan. inst.

TRUSTEES.

Rev. HEMAN HUMPHREY, D. D. *President.*

Rev. JOSHUA CROSBY, *Vice President,*

RUFUS GRAVES, Esq.

RUFUS COWLES, M. D.

Rev. JAMES TAYLOR,

NATHANIEL SMITH, Esq.

Rev. EXPERIENCE PORTER,

Rev. JOHN FISKE,

ISRAEL E. TRASKE, Esq.

ELISHA BILLINGS, Esq.

Rev. DANIEL A. CLARK,

Hon. JOHN HOOKER,

Rev. JOSEPH VAILL,

Rev. JONATHAN GOING,

JOHN LELAND, Jr. Esq. *Treasurer.*

OVERSEERS OF THE FUNDS.

HENRY GRAY, Esq.

HON. SALEM TOWNE,

H. WRIGHT STRONG, Esq.

REV. SAMUEL OSGOOD,

REV. THEOPHILUS PACKARD,

REV. THOMAS SNELL,

REV. LUTHER SHELDON,

Faculty.

REV. HEMAN HUMPHREY, D. D. S. T. P.

President.

REV. GAMALIEL S. OLDS, A. M.

Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

JOSEPH ESTABROOK, A. M.

Professor of Latin and Greek Languages.

REV. JONAS KING, A. M.

*Professor of Oriental Literature;**(to be absent for two years.)*

ZENAS CLAPP, A. B.

Tutor and Librarian.

SAMUEL M. WORCESTER, A. B.

Tutor.

Students.

Senior Class	-	-	-	19
Junior Class	-	-	-	29
Sophomore Class		-	-	41
Freshmen Class	-	-	-	37
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Total				126

The following abstract is given from the last Catalogue of the Academy, to show that it is entirely distinct and separate from the College, about a quarter of a mile distant, though under the care of the same Trustees.

AMHERST ACADEMY, Nov. 1823.

DAVID GREEN, A. M. *Preceptor.*

EBENEZER S. SNELL,	}	<i>Assistant Instructors.</i>
EPHRAIM EVELETH,		

MISS HANNAH SHEPARD, *Preceptress.**Students in the Academy.*

In the Languages,	-	-	-	59
In English branches,		-	-	94
				<hr/>
Total,				153

Females, 60.

*Sketch of the Colleges, in which New England Students
are educated, taken from Catalogues of 1823.*

1823.	<i>Undergraduates.</i>			<i>From Mass.</i>	
Harvard,	267	-	-	-	192
Williams,	118	-	-	-	71
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In Harv. and Ws.	385	-		From Ms.	263
Amherst,	126	-	-	-	79
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Total in 3 Ms. Colls.	511	-		From Ms.	342
Yale, Conn.	374		-	-	68
Brown, R. I.	154	-	-	-	94
Bowdoin, Me.	123	-	-	-	15
Waterville, Me.	34	-	-	-	5
Dartmouth, N. H.	141	-	-	-	21
Middlebury, Vt.	85	-	-	-	6
Burlington, Vt.	53	-	-	-	0
Union, N. Y.	209	-	-	-	18
<hr/>					
Total,	1634		Total from Mass.	569	
Mass. students in Harvard and Williams,				263	
Mass. students in other Institutions,				306	
Mass. students in Amherst,				79	
Mass. students in other states,				227	

Thus it appears that out of the 569 students furnished by Massachusetts, 306 (*which is a very considerable majority,*) choose to go to other Institutions, rather than to Harvard or Williams; (*viz.* 79 of them to Amherst, and the remaining 227 to Colleges of other States;) which is a plain demonstration, that public opinion calls for another incorporated College.

By subtracting 511, (the number in the three Colleges of Massachusetts,) from 569, the number furnished by the state, it appears that 58 *go out of the state more than what come in*, for an education.

In an Appendix to the last printed Catalogue of Yale College, the average amount of *necessary* expenses there, is stated to be from \$150 to \$200 a year, "without including apparel, pocket-money, travelling, and board in vacation." But supposing that these 58 students who go out of Massachusetts more than what come in, expend for all purposes, each \$200 a year; this amounts to \$11,600 *annual loss to the state*.

CONNECTICUT.

From an examination of the same Catalogues, it will appear that the state of *Connecticut* furnishes for the different Colleges only 226 students. But Yale College in that state contains 374; so that, (subtracting 226 from 374,) it appears that 148 go into the state of Connecticut *more than what go out of it*, for an education. Which, (allowing that they expend, each \$200 a year,) gives to Connecticut an *annual income* of \$29,600, a very considerable part of which goes from Massachusetts.

RHODE ISLAND.

From an examination of the same Catalogue, it will appear, that the *State of Rhode Island* furnishes for the

different Colleges only 42 students. But Brown University in that state contains 154 students; 94 *of whom are from Massachusetts*. Allowing that these 94 expend in Rhode Island, for College bills, board, clothing, travelling, &c., each \$150 a year; then Massachusetts is paying to that state a *tax* of \$14,100 *annually!*

As the above statements are taken from *official documents*, it is not deemed necessary to add the signature of the writer; but if any one doubts their correctness, he may see and examine the Catalogues by referring to the Hon. Chairman of the Committee.

In the foregoing remarks no disparagement of the Colleges of other states is intended; and it is hoped their only effect will be to excite a generous emulation. It is *honorable* to those states, that their Colleges are so situated and so managed, as to attract a *much greater number* of students than what are furnished by their population. But it is *not honorable* nor *profitable* to Massachusetts, that 227 of her sons, are now obliged, from year to year, to go for an education to Colleges of other states, principally for want of a *chartered* College favorably located in the interior of this. And the men of other states *will smile with astonishment* at the *impolicy* of our Government, should they refuse the *simple privilege of a Charter* to such a College, after it is in fact *established*, and furnished with spacious Buildings and large funds, in a place which all parties acknowledge to be peculiarly eligible.

Let this rising Seminary have the honor of being acknowledged by an impartial Legislature to be, what

it really is,—a *College*; so that students may receive the trifling honor of degrees; and who knows but these 227 students, who now go out of the state for education, and (at the low estimate of \$150 each,) carry out \$34,000 *annually*,—who knows but that they may be *retained*, and honorably educated in the bosom of the most enlightened state on the face of the globe?

Extract from the Remarks of Hon. Daniel Davis, Solicitor General of the Commonwealth, before the Joint Committee, June 5, 1823.

Should the Legislature refuse to incorporate this Institution, it must be an example of illiberality, *unprecedented in the history of our country*. To put the illiberality, and injustice of such a refusal in a clear point of light, compare the *object* of this petition, with others for which charters are every year granted without hesitation. Let ten men in Boston, or in any other part of the State, associate together and collect a common Fund for the most mercenary and entirely *selfish purposes*, and ask for a charter, and it is almost universally granted as a matter of course. In this case, benevolent individuals, scattered in all parts of the State, many of whom are known to us as men of elevated character and distinguished worth, have associated together and freely given their property, for the most *heavenly purposes*. They have founded a College, a leading object of which is to *educate pious young men of all denominations for the ministry of the everlasting gospel*; and the general object of which is

to furnish to *all* students the means of pursuing an elevated course of Classical education in a delightful part of the country, where the *expense of living in good families, is one dollar, or one dollar and twenty-five cents a week, and no more.* It is impossible to doubt the purity of their motives, or the importance and grandeur of their object. Most of the Subscribers and Donors can have no personal interest whatever in the success of the Institution. The Institution is founded in *Charity*;—the *son of the poorest peasant* may here obtain an education of the highest order, and may become an *instrument of God to save our State and perhaps our Nation.* Is it the spirit of our government to disparage such Institutions? Will any man, after a clear understanding of the case, come forward with the *Constitution in his hand, and the oath of God on his conscience, binding him “to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, and all Seminaries of them,”* and “*to encourage private societies and public Institutions*”—will he deliberately refuse to encourage this Seminary? Will he say, the students shall not receive the privileges and honors, which are usually granted to others of the same standing in literary attainments? It is absurd to compare the policy of our government in regard to Colleges, with that of Europe, where not more than one third of the population can write their names. The character of our government and the spirit of our citizens, do not at present call for such Universities as Europe affords, where the *rich* only can afford the expense of education, and where many spend their lives in study or idleness, without any wish to become active or useful to the public. But activity

and skill in the learned professions, or in other useful employments, is what the spirit of our government and the genius of our country have a right to expect from men of College education; and to perpetuate our free government, and to elevate the character of Republicanism in the eyes of all nations, it is necessary that Colleges should be so situated and so multiplied, that the advantages of them may be enjoyed by some in all ranks of society.

If it can be supposed that any individuals do indeed fear the *too great prosperity* of this Institution, it surely becomes such persons especially, to avoid even the *appearance* of persecution; for such is human nature, that nothing could be more likely to ensure its triumphant success.

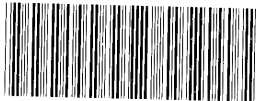
In conclusion,—it is respectfully added, that the Trustees of Amherst have *no controversy* with the Trustees of Williams College, and that no reply to their Memorial is deemed necessary. While they state *facts*, and thus *demonstrate* that public *opinion* as well as public *interest* calls for the incorporation of a new College; they only wish that Constitutional Rights may be enjoyed by all, and that the public may be left free to say where they will extend their patronage.

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Boston, Jan. 1824. Printed by Crocker & Brewster.

1824

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